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31 January 2012

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 Clerk's Office
 101 Executive Center Drive
 Columbia, SC 29210

2012 FEB -1 AM 9:19

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PETITION TO INTERVENE – DOCKET #2011-515-W**REQUEST FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING – DOCKET #2011-515-W**

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Dear Public Service Commission,

By this letter I am requesting that a local public hearing be held during the evening hours in the vicinity of the Foxwood neighborhood. The great interest in the neighborhood in this issue, combined with the significant difficulty in missing work and travelling to Columbia make a local public hearing very important.

Please also accept this letter as filing to become an Intervener in the above-referenced Docket. As a resident of the Foxwood Community since April 2004, I am well aware of the ongoing problems with both the water service and the water company, Utilities Services of South Carolina. Having already invested a considerable sum in a whole-house water-treatment system because of USSC's neighborhood reputation for lack of attention to both infrastructure and maintenance, I do not feel that the Company should be allowed to further perpetuate their reputation without the active involvement of their customers.

According to remarks made at earlier public hearings, USSC got their water at no charge from the local provider. In spite of getting free water, the Company has charged us exorbitant rates. The amounts supposedly spent on infrastructure and maintenance during the remanded hearing on the previous as-yet-unapproved rate increase request are, to my knowledge, still unsubstantiated. I wish to be one of the residents of Foxwood that closely monitors and receives substantial information on the progress of this issue as an Intervener.

In the Notice of Filing for the above-mentioned Docket, the "unreliable 3rd party pumping equipment" is listed as the reason for the need to connect with York County Water. I believe it should be part of the proceedings to note that little has been done to maintain or service any part of the infrastructure, and that as a result – simply changing the source of the water will not be likely to significantly change the way USSC has taken care of the neighborhood water or given service.

I further oppose suggested rate increases proposed by Lisa Sparrow in letters of 02 and 04 November related to the cost of hookup. USSC has undoubtedly known the condition

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of the infrastructure and the water supply for many years, yet only in recent history has begun to act. If USSC and its parent company Utilities, Inc were the responsible and professional Public Service companies they portray themselves to be, Foxwood residents would have been apprised of these various options years in advance, and the Company would have budgeted for many years to ensure a smooth and timely transition. The current situation is urgent only insomuch as USSC and UI are responsible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J Knowlton".

James S Knowlton
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CC: Nannette S Edwards, Counsel
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CC: Scott Elliott, Counsel
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